

October 28, 2016

Royal BC Museum Remembrance events tell the stories beyond the front lines

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum takes you beyond the battlefield at Remembrance Commemoration events on November 10 and 11, 2016.

The personal stories from the men and women who served and those who kept the home fires burning are remembered through a series of special events and live performances.

On Thursday, November 10, step back into the 1940s at the first Museum Happy Hour event, “On the Home Front”, from 5-7 pm. Gather around the stand-up radio and listen to the news (from the CBC Digital Archives) from the battlefield, learn Second World War-time dance moves in Old Town, watch short films from the period in the Majestic Theatre, knit socks as you might have done for soldiers during the era, discover what you would have done during an air raid, and interact with actors in period costume while glamming it up with war-time hairstyles, wardrobe and make-up. Tickets are \$10 per person (10 per cent member discount).

Later that evening, the museum will open its doors to present a free public concert, “Lest We Forget”, by the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy. The concert runs from 7-9 pm in Clifford Carl Hall, on the main floor of the Royal BC Museum.

On Remembrance Day, Friday, November 11, the Victoria Children's Choir will open Commemoration events with a free performance in Clifford Carl Hall from 12:15-12:45 pm. The singers (aged seven to 18) performed at the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands in 2015 and most recently at the official welcome ceremony for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. They will perform music on themes of war and peace, including songs from the time of both World Wars, patriotic Canadian songs and more recent compositions expressing the common desire for peace and human solidarity.

At 1 pm, the Royal BC Museum and the Story Theatre Company team up once again to bring home the words written by those on the front lines in the First World War. “Letters Home”, a dramatic presentation, shares the hopes and fears of the young men who fought from the trenches, as well as the horrors that faced the women who served as nurses. Hear the initial hopes and ideals of both and how the letters changed as the war stretched on. This free performance is abridged from a full-length presentation that is being readied for 2017, Canada’s 150th birthday and the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge.

From 1:30-2:30 pm, join Royal BC Museum Associate Registrar and local historian Paul Ferguson on his latest photo journey, “Cycling the Salient: Ypres 2016.” The First World War shattered the Belgian region known as the Ypres Salient. Recounting recent travels on bicycle and foot between Ypres, Ploegsteert, Passchendaele, and Reningelst, Ferguson showcases a regenerated but scarred landscape.

The afternoon program concludes with a special screening from the documentary “War Memories Across Canada,” from 2:30-3:30 pm. Selected excerpts from this two-part series highlight stories that look at the First and Second World Wars from the perspective of places in Canada that were shaped by these battles. The history is recounted by “guardians of remembrance”—historians, guides and storytellers who offer insight into what happened and why. Director and producer Dr. Geoffrey Bird



from Royal Roads University will be in attendance and will answer questions following the film.

All Remembrance Day Commemoration events are free of charge and take place in Clifford Carl Hall, on the main floor of the Royal BC Museum. Events are supported by the Veterans Affairs Canada Community Engagement Fund.

For more information about these and other events, please visit royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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